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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Issued by the Department of Transportation
on the 21st day December, 2000

Essential Air Service at

OWENSBORO, KENTUCKY

MUSCLE SHOALS, ALABAMA

JACKSON, TENNESSEE

Under 49 U.S.C. 41731 *et seq.*

Served: December 27, 2000

Docket OST-2000-7855 - 3

Docket OST-2000-7856 - 4

Docket OST-2000-7857 - 2 3

ORDER EXTENDING SERVICE OBLIGATION

Summary

By this order, the Department is extending Northwest Airlink's service obligation at Owensboro, Kentucky, Muscle Shoals, Alabama and Jackson, Tennessee, for an additional 30 days, through January 22, 2001.¹

Background

On August 24, 2000, Express Airlines I, Inc., d/b/a Northwest Airlink (Northwest Airlink), filed a 90-day notice of its intent to suspend its subsidy-free service at the above communities, effective November 22, 2000. By Order 2000-10-3, October 2, 2000, the Department prohibited Northwest Airlink from suspending service at the communities for an initial 30-day period, through December 22, 2000, and stated that we would issue subsequent 30-day hold-in orders until we could secure replacement service. That order also requested proposals from carriers interested in providing replacement service. Northwest Airlink is the only carrier providing scheduled air service at these three communities.

Since, we have not yet received any proposals, this case will not be concluded before the end of the current hold-in period. Thus, as required by 49 U.S.C. 41734, we are extending Northwest Airlink's service obligation for an additional 30 days, or until replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first.

¹ The actual end-date for this hold-in period is January 21st. Since that day falls on a Sunday, the next business day will serve as the official end-date, making this a 31-day hold-in period. (See 14 CFR 302.16)

This order is issued under authority assigned in 14 CFR 385.12(k)(5).

ACCORDINGLY,

1. The Department requires Express Airlines I, Inc., d/b/a Northwest Airlink, to maintain essential air service at Owensboro, Kentucky, Muscle Shoals, Alabama, and Jackson, Tennessee, consisting of at least two nonstop or one-stop round trips each weekday and weekend period in the Owensboro-Memphis market; at least two nonstop or one-stop round trips each weekday and weekend period in the Muscle Shoals-Memphis market; at least two nonstop round trips each weekday and weekend period in the Jackson-Memphis market for an additional 30-day period, through January 22, 2001, or until a carrier capable of providing reliable replacement service actually begins, whichever occurs first;²
2. The Department directs Northwest Airlink to retain all books, records, and other source and summary documents to support subsidy claims for payment and to preserve and maintain such documentation in a manner that readily permits its audit and examination by representatives of the Department. Such documentation shall be retained for seven years or until the Department indicates that the records may be destroyed. Copies of flight logs for aircraft sold or disposed of must be retained. The carrier may forfeit its compensation for any claim that is not supported under the terms of this order;
3. Dockets OST-2000-7855, OST-2000-7856 and OST-2000-7857, will remain open until further order of the Department; and
4. The Department will serve a copy of this order on the Mayors and Airport Managers of Owensboro, KY, Muscle Shoals, AL, and Jackson, TN; and Express Airlines I, Inc., d/b/a Northwest Airlink.

Persons entitled to petition the Department for review of this order under the Department's Regulations, 14 CFR 385.50, must file such petitions within ten days after the date of service of this order.

This order will be effective immediately, and the filing of a petition for review shall not preclude its effectiveness.

By:

RANDALL D. BENNETT
Acting Director
Office of Aviation Analysis

(SEAL)

*An electronic version of this document is available on the World Wide Web at
<http://dms.dot.gov>*

² In accordance with 49 U.S.C. 41734(c), we will extend Northwest Airlink's service obligation for successive 30-day periods as necessary until replacement service actually begins.